R4105-6

The Conference Board

Economics Program

MONTHLY UPDATE TO

International Economic Scoreboard

A Monthly Report from The Conference Board — June 1990

SLOWER GROWTH AHEAD WORLDWIDE

Globally, the economy is doing a nice job of staying close to the centerline of the business cycle, thereby evidently avoiding either a recession or a new burst of inflation. While that's reassuring, it's not clear how much vigor the cycle contains. The answer depends on which index you examine and for which region. When we look at the *economic performance indexes,* Europe and the Pacific show a pretty good rate of advance, but North America reports only a little growth. When we look for growth in the *leading indexes,* however, all three major regions are at or close to a dead standstill. This points to lethargic growth ahead in most of the industrial world.

Nationally, West Germany is the only country of the eleven that shows an unabashedly favorable set of indexes. The weakest numbers are found in the leading indexes of Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States; thus far, however, the performance indexes have not turned down in those three countries. In Japan, the rebound in stock prices in May has removed at least part of the economic question mark posed earlier by the stock market's sharp drop. The new quandary is Taiwan, where both indexes dropped precipitously in April.

Summary Of Growth Rates, Eleven Industrial Countries

	Ten-year Growth Rate	Indexes of Economic Performance Growth Rates*			Leading Business Cycle Indexes Growth Rates*			Current Reading on the Cycle	Latest Month Covered
	1976-86	6 mos. ago	3 mos. ago	Latest month	6 mos. ago	3 mos. ago	Latest month		
	annual rates, percent								
Eleven countries	3	4	4	5	3	2	1	Expansion continuing, leaders weak	Mar.
Ten countries excl. U.S.	3	6	6	6	4	3	2	Expansion continuing	Mar.
North America (2)	3	2	2	2	1	0	0	Expansion continuing, leaders weak	Mar.
Europe (4)	2	5	6	6	2	0	0	Expansion continuing, leaders weak	Mar.
Pacific Region (5)	4	7	7	8	8	6	3	Expansion continuing	Mar.
United States	3	2	1	1	1	-1	-2	Expansion continuing, leaders weak	Apr.
Canada	3	3	2	2	1	3	1	Expansion continuing, leaders weak	Mar.
West Germany	2	4	5	6	5	6	5	Expansion continuing	Mar.
France	2	8	8	6	-1	-3	1	Expansion continuing, leaders weak	Mar./Apr.
United Kingdom	2	5	5	4	-2	-5	-3	Expansion continuing, leaders weak	Mar.
Italy	2	1	5	7	-1	-3	1	Expansion resuming, leaders weak	Jan./Feb.
Japan	4	6	7	8	8	6	3	Expansion continuing	Mar./Apr.
Australia	3	8	5	3	0	-3	-4	Expansion continuing, leaders weak	Apr.
Taiwan, R.O.C.	8	5	7	-2	7	7	5	Expansion stalling	Apr.
Korea, R.O.K.	7	7	10	13	2	2	0	Expansion continuing, leaders weak	Apr.
New Zealand	2	0	-2	2	4	4	1	Upturn stalling, leaders weak	Feb./Mar.

* Ratio of current month's index to average index over the preceding 12 months, expressed as a compound annual rate.

The Conference Board
845 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022 / (212) 759-0900

The indexes are prepared by the Center for International Business Cycle Research, Columbia University. Reproduction permissible with full citation to The Conference Board as source. Published monthly at 845 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022.

Copyright © 1990 by The Conference Board, Inc.

INDEXES, WORLDWIDE AND BY REGION, 1988-90

		11 Countries		10 Countries excl. U.S.		North America (2)		Europe (4)		Pacific Region (5)	
		Indexes, 1980 = 100									
		Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.
Aug.	88	127	135	128	133	125	136	119	122	143	153
Sept.	88	127	134	129	132	125	135	119	121	144	152
Oct.	88	128	134	129	133	126	136	119	122	144	152
Nov.	88	128	135	130	133	126	136	120	122	146	153
Dec.	88	129	136	131	135	127	137	121	122	146	157
Jan.	89	130	137	132	137	127	137	122	124	148	160
Feb.	89	130	137	132	137	128	136	122	124	148	162
Mar.	89	131	138	134	137	128	137	123	124	152	160
Apr.	89	131	137	133	137	128	137	123	124	149	159
May	89	131	137	134	136	128	137	123	124	150	158
June	89	132	137	135	137	128	136	124	124	152	160
July	89	132	137	135	138	128	136	124	124	152	162
Aug.	89	133	138	136	139	129	137	125	124	154	165
Sept.	89	133	139	136	139	129	137	126	124	154	165
Oct.	89	134	139	137	139	129	137	126	124	154	165
Nov.	89	134	139	138	139	129	137	127	124	156	166
Dec.	89	135	139	139	140	129	136	128	124	156	167
Jan.	90	135	139	139	140	129	136	129	125	157	167
Feb.	90	135	138	140	140	130	134	129	124	158	168
Mar.	90	136	139	141	140	130	136	130	124	160	167

11 Countries		10 Countries excl. U.S.		North America (2)		Europe (4)		Pacific Region (5)	
Growth Rates, Percent									
Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.
6	6	6	7	4	5	6	5	7	11
5	5	6	5	4	3	6	4	7	8
5	5	6	5	5	3	5	4	7	7
5	5	6	5	4	4	6	4	7	7
6	6	6	7	4	4	6	4	7	10
6	6	7	8	4	4	6	6	8	13
6	5	6	8	4	1	6	5	7	13
6	5	8	6	4	3	6	4	11	10
5	4	6	5	4	3	6	4	6	7
5	3	5	3	3	2	5	3	6	3
5	2	6	4	3	0	5	3	7	6
4	2	6	4	2	0	5	2	7	6
5	3	6	5	3	1	6	1	7	9
4	3	6	4	2	1	5	2	7	8
4	2	6	3	2	1	6	1	6	7
4	2	6	3	2	1	6	0	6	7
4	2	6	3	2	0	6	0	7	6
4	1	6	3	1	-1	6	1	6	5
4	0	6	3	2	-3	6	0	6	6
5	1	6	2	2	0	6	0	8	3
Ten Year Annual Growth Rate, Percent									
3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	4	4

INDEXES, ELEVEN COUNTRIES, 1988-90

		U.S.		Canada		West Germany		France		U.K.		Italy		Japan		Australia		Taiwan, R.O.C.		Korea, R.O.K.		New Zealand	
		Indexes, 1980 = 100																					
		Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.
Aug.	88	124	137	131	125	115	121	127	128	119	119	113	117	140	152	132	129	181	215	206	212	111	113
Sept.	88	124	136	131	125	115	120	128	127	120	119	113	117	141	151	135	129	183	217	206	209	112	113
Oct.	88	125	137	131	124	115	121	128	128	120	119	113	117	142	151	136	128	182	217	208	212	112	114
Nov.	88	125	138	132	124	116	121	130	128	121	120	113	117	143	152	137	129	185	219	209	215	112	115
Dec.	88	126	138	132	125	116	123	130	128	122	120	113	117	144	156	138	128	185	217	210	218	112	115
Jan.	89	126	138	133	126	118	124	131	130	122	121	112	117	145	160	140	130	187	219	213	218	113	115
Feb.	89	127	137	133	125	118	125	132	130	123	120	113	116	145	162	142	130	186	220	214	214	113	115
Mar.	89	127	138	133	125	118	126	134	130	123	119	112	116	149	160	142	131	188	225	214	218	113	116
Apr.	89	128	138	134	125	119	127	134	129	124	120	112	115	146	159	145	131	187	223	212	219	113	116
May	89	128	138	134	125	119	127	135	130	124	119	112	116	147	156	144	133	190	224	212	218	113	117
June	89	128	137	134	125	120	127	136	130	124	119	113	117	149	160	148	132	189	228	214	218	113	117
July	89	128	137	134	126	120	127	136	129	125	119	113	117	149	162	148	131	190	229	217	218	112	116
Aug.	89	128	138	135	126	121	126	137	129	126	119	114	118	150	165	148	132	191	231	220	224	112	118
Sept.	89	128	138	135	126	120	128	138	130	126	118	115	118	151	165	150	131	190	232	220	224	112	118
Oct.	89	128	138	135	126	121	128	139	128	127	117	116	118	152	166	149	130	192	232	221	220	112	120
Nov.	89	128	138	135	126	122	128	141	128	127	116	117	119	153	167	150	129	194	234	221	222	112	120
Dec.	89	129	137	135	127	122	130	141	127	128	116	119	118	154	168	151	129	193	234	224	221	112	119
Jan.	90	128	137	135	125	123	131	142	127	128	118	118	119	154	168	150	129	197	236	228	222	113	120
Feb.	90	129	135	135	126	124	131	142	126	128	117		118	154	168	150	129	193	247	235	224	114	119
Mar.	90	129	137	136	126	125	132	143	127	128	116			157	167	150	128	194	242	237	224		118
Apr.	90	129	136						129						167	151	128	190	238	237	221		
		Growth Rates, Percent																					
Aug.	88	4	5	5	1	5	5	8	8	7	3	6	3	7	11	6	8	7	17	8	12	-3	-1
Sept.	88	4	3	5	1	4	4	9	6	7	2	4	2	7	8	9	7	8	16	7	7	-2	0
Oct.	88	5	4	4	0	3	5	7	7	7	3	3	3	6	7	10	4	6	14	7	9	-1	2
Nov.	88	4	4	4	0	4	4	8	6	7	4	3	3	7	7	9	5	9	14	5	10	0	4
Dec.	88	4	5	4	0	5	6	8	5	7	3	3	2	7	11	10	3	8	10	6	11	1	3
Jan.	89	5	4	4	1	6	7	9	7	6	4	1	2	7	14	11	5	9	10	7	9	2	3
Feb.	89	5	1	4	0	6	8	9	5	6	2	1	0	7	15	12	4	6	8	7	4	2	4
Mar.	89	4	3	4	0	6	8	9	5	6	1	0	0	11	10	10	5	7	11	7	7	2	4
Apr.	89	4	3	3	-1	6	8	8	3	6	2	0	-2	6	7	13	3	5	8	5	6	2	5
May	89	3	2	4	0	5	7	8	4	5	0	0	-1	6	3	10	6	7	7	4	5	2	6
June	89	3	0	3	0	5	6	8	3	5	-1	1	1	7	6	13	4	5	9	4	4	2	5
July	89	2	0	3	1	4	6	8	0	5	-1	1	1	7	7	12	2	5	8	6	2	0	3
Aug.	89	3	1	3	1	6	4	8	0	5	-1	2	3	7	10	10	3	5	9	8	7	0	4
Sept.	89	2	0	3	1	4	5	8	1	5	-2	4	2	6	9	10	1	4	9	7	6	-1	4
Oct.	89	2	1	2	1	4	4	8	-1	5	-4	5	2	6	8	8	0	5	7	7	2	-1	6
Nov.	89	2	1	2	0	5	4	9	-1	5	-4	7	3	7	8	7	-2	6	8	5	3	-2	5
Dec.	89	2	-1	2	3	5	6	8	-3	5	-5	8	2	7	8	7	-3	4	7	8	1	-1	4
Jan.	90	1	-1	1	0	6	5	8	-3	4	-1	7	3	6	6	5	-3	7	7	10	2	1	4
Feb.	90	2	-3	1	1	6	5	7	-4	4	-3		1	6	6	4	-3	3	15	15	4	2	2
Mar.	90	2	0	2	1	6	5	6	-3	4	-3			8	4	2	-4	2	9	15	3		1
Apr.	90	1	-2						1						3	3	-4	-2	5	13	0		
		Ten Year Annual Growth Rate, Percent																					
1976-86		3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	3	3	8	8	7	7	2	2